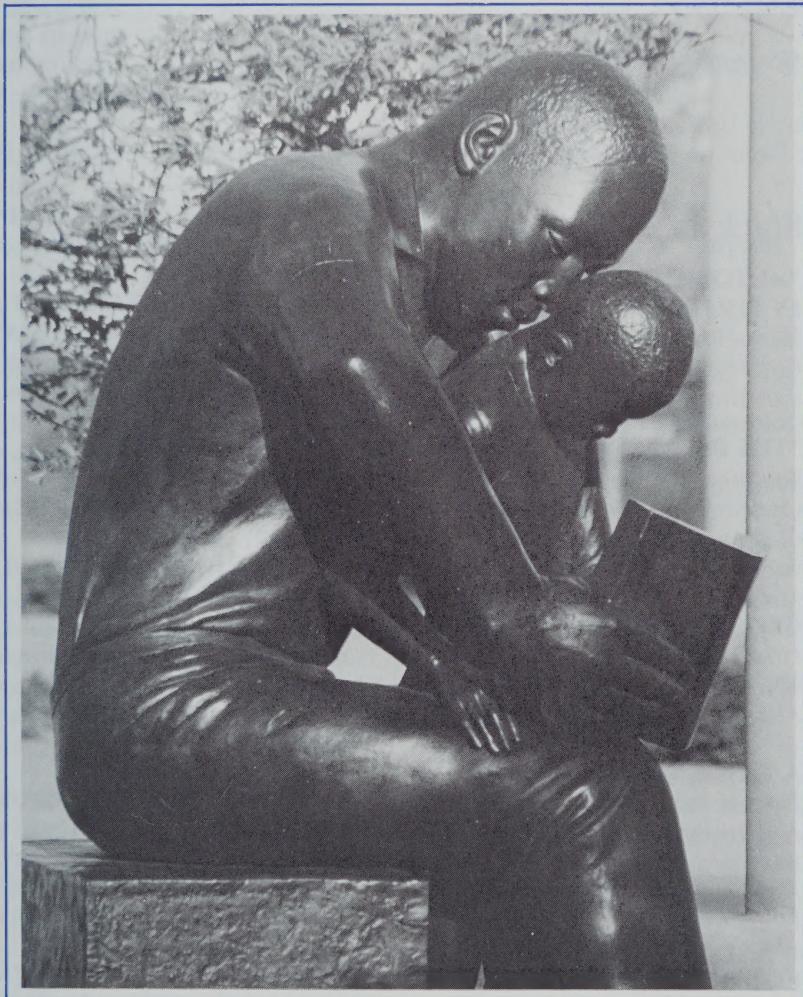


BLACK IS... 1996



BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Black Is... 1996

The 1996 edition of **Black Is...** continues the Boston Public Library's tradition of publishing a list of recent books concerning Blacks as part of the Library's observance of Black History Month in February of every year.

*Recommended for Young Adults

Black Is... Fiction

*AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH

Jacqueline Woodson

Coming of age in the urban ghettos of the 1960s and '70s.

*THE BETWEEN

Tananarive Due

One man's quest to reconcile dreams with reality and the supernatural with the normal.

CROSSING OVER JORDAN

Linda Beatrice Brown

The struggles of four generations of African-American women.

A DRINK BEFORE THE WAR

Dennis Lehane

A detective tale which examines the tensions between Irish and African-Americans in present-day Dorchester.

ETHIOPIAN STORIES

Goerge Schuyler

Two novellas.

FIRE IN THE CANES

Glenville Lovell

A tale of love, mysticism, and ultimate sacrifice in the West Indies.

*THE GOOD NEGRESS

A.J. Verdelle

The saga of a young girl struggling towards womanhood.

HANGING BY HER TEETH

Bonnie Greer

A lonely blueswoman searches for her father and finds herself.

ILLEGAL MOTION

Grif Stockley

Allegations of date rape in an interracial relationship ignite a Southern university campus.

KRIK? KRAK!

Edwidge Danticat

Ten short stories about the lives of modern-day Haitians.

THE LONGEST MEMORY

Fred D'Aguiar

A slave is tricked into betraying his son with tragic consequences.

POINT OF DARKNESS

Mike Phillips

From London to Queens and back in search of a serial killer.

RL'S DREAM

Walter Mosley

Soupspoon Wise's entire life was driven by his brief friendship and musical performances with the great Robert Johnson.

*SPOOKS, SPIES, AND PRIVATE EYES: Black Mystery, Crime, and Suspense Fiction

An anthology.

TRAITOR TO THE RACE

Darieck Scott

An unemployed New York actor wrestles with his identity and his gay lifestyle.

THE WEDDING

Dorothy West

Issues of race, skin tone, and class come to a boil on Martha's Vineyard.

WILD EMBERS

Anita Bunkley

A young Army nurse experiences love and loss in the World War II American South.

Black Is... International

*BOB MARLEY: Songs of Freedom

Adrian Boot and Chris Salewicz

*BOB MARLEY: Spirit Dancer

Bruce Talamon

Photographic portraits.

*BORN FI' DEAD: A Journey through the Jamaican Posse Underworld

Laurie Gunst

Author's account of her 10 years living among drug desperados.

THE FALL OF THE ASANTE EMPIRE: The Hundred-Year War for Africa's Gold Coast

Robert Edgerton

Details of the war between the Asante of Ghana and the British.

LONG WALK TO FREEDOM: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela

NOTHING EXCEPT OURSELVES: The Harsh Times and Bold Theater of South Africa's Mbongeni Ngema

Laura Jones

A controversial playwright.

RASTAFARI: Roots and Ideology

Barry Chevannes

A scholarly history of the movement.

Black Is... History

DOUBLE V: The Civil Rights Struggle of the Tuskegee Airmen

Lawrence P. Scott and William M. Womack

A celebrated flying unit battles segregation during World War II.

A FIRE IN THE BONES: Reflections on African-American Religious History

Albert J. Raboteau

How the faith of a people adapted to a new culture without losing its roots.

GHOSTS OF MISSISSIPPI: The Murder of Medgar Evers, the Trials of Byron de la Beckwith and the Haunting of the New South

Maryanne Vollers

THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE: Hub of African-American Culture, 1920-1930

Steven Watson

Richly illustrated.

I SHARED THE DREAM: The Pride, Passion and Politics of the First Black Woman Senator from Kentucky

Georgia Davis Powers

The only black woman to sit in the Kentucky State Senate. Also a companion of Martin Luther King.

LINCOLN'S UNKNOWN PRIVATE LIFE: An Oral History by His Black Housekeeper Mariah Vance 1850-60

Ed. by Lloyd Ostendorf and Walter Oleksy

LONG TIME COMING: An Insider's Story of the Birmingham Church Bombing That Rocked the World

Elizabeth H. Cobbs and Petric J. Smith

Told by the perpetrator's niece who sealed his conviction.

**THE MARTINSVILLE SEVEN:
Race, Rape, and Capital Punishment**

Eric W. Rose

Hostility, prejudice, and a flawed judicial system condemned seven men to death.

**THE MEMPHIS DIARY OF IDA B.
WELLS**

Ed. by *Miriam DeCosta-Willis*

The youthful frustrations and aspirations of this powerful crusader against lynching.

**SOL WHITE'S HISTORY OF COLOR
ORED BASEBALL: With Other
Documents on the Early Black
Game 1886-1936**

Compiled by *Jerry Malloy*

Firsthand account by a player and manager in the Negro Leagues.

**SPEAK NOW AGAINST THE
DAY: The Generation before the
Civil Rights Movement in the
South**

John Egerton

Forerunners in the battle against segregation.

**TARA REVISITED: Women, War,
and the Plantation Legend**

Catherine Clinton

Black and white women face the Civil War.

**WOMAN OF COLOR, DAUGH-
TER OF PRIVILEGE: Amanda
America Dickson, 1849-1893**

Kent Anderson Leslie

The life of a mulatto ex-slave who died the richest African American in the South.

Black Is... Personalities

**BROTHER LOVE: Murder, Money,
and a Messiah**

Sydney P. Freedberg

About the charismatic religious leader, Yahweh Ben Yahweh.

***BUCK LEONARD: The Black Lou
Gehrig: The Hall of Famer's Story
in His Own Words**

Buck Leonard with James A. Riley
Baseball at the zenith of the Negro Leagues.

**BUS RIDE TO JUSTICE: Changing
the System by the System: The Life
and Work of Fred D. Gray**

Fred D. Gray

"Lawyer for Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, the Desegregation of Alabama Schools, and the 1965 Selma March."

***BY GEORGE: The Autobiography
of George Foreman**

George Foreman and Joel Engel
He turned the hoots of the sports world into hurrahs when he regained the heavyweight championship of the world at the age of forty-five.

**THE DITCHDIGGER'S DAUGH-
TERS: A Black Family's Astonishing
Success Story**

*Yvonne S. Thornton, M.D. as told
to Jo Coudert*

Six sisters attribute their success to their uneducated father's single-minded devotion to hard work and family values.

**DREAMS FROM MY FATHER: A
Story of Race and Inheritance**

Barack Obama

The son of a black Kenyan father and a white American mother is part of two worlds but belongs to neither.

***THE EMMITT ZONE**

Emmitt Smith with Steve Delsohn
He was considered pro football's premier running back.

***FLEET WALKER'S DIVIDED HEART: The Life of Baseball's First Black Major Leaguer**

David W. Zang

He was also the last one until Jackie Robinson played fifty-five years later.

GHETTO SOLUTION

Roland Gilbert and Cheo Tyehimba-Taylor

Gilbert was founder of a program that trains African-American adults to be role models for African-American youths.

***LETTIN IT ALL HANG OUT**

RuPaul

Part autobiography part how-to manual for drag queens.

LIFE ON THE COLOR LINE: The True Story of a White Boy Who Discovered He Was Black

Gregory Howard Williams

His mother was white, his father was passing. Following their divorce he was forced to deal with his biracial heritage.

LIVE FROM DEATH ROW

Mumia Abu-Jamal

Columns about racism and injustice in America by a journalist convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of a white police officer.

***MICHAEL JACKSON: Unauthorized**

Christopher Andersen

Reclusive, enigmatic, even bizarre, but is he really a pedophile?

MY AMERICAN JOURNEY

Colin Powell with Joseph E. Persico

"Mine is the story of a black kid of no early promise from an immigrant family....who was raised in the South Bronx and somehow rose to become....Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff."

***NO DISRESPECT**

Sister Souljah

More than a biography, the rapper's position on life, love, sex, spirituality, and race.

ONLY IN AMERICA: The Life and Crimes of Don King

Jack Newfield

The numbers runner from Cleveland who took control of professional boxing. An exposé.

PRYOR CONVICTIONS: And Other Life Sentences

Richard Pryor with Todd Gold

The tormented life of an American comic.

***REBOUND: The Odyssey of Michael Jordan**

Bob Greene

His two-year search for himself after his father's untimely death.

REVELATIONS: The Autobiography of Alvin Ailey

Alvin Ailey with A. Peter Bailey

He overcame insecurity, drug addiction, and mental illness to become a world renowned pioneer in dance and choreography.

***WOODHOLME: A Black Man's Story of Growing Up Alone**

DeWayne Wickham

An extended family of Jewish country club members and black caddies provides direction to an orphan after the murder/suicide of his parents.

YOU SEND ME: The Life and Times of Sam Cooke

Daniel Wolff

"....from the gospel highway to the chittlin' circuit to the Copacabana...."

Black Is... Contemporary Issues

BLACK AND JEWS: Alliances and Arguments

Ed. by *Paul Berman*
Essays.

JEWS & BLACKS: Let the Healing Begin

Michael Lerner and *Cornel West*
A dialogue.

WHAT WENT WRONG? The Creation and Collapse of the Black-Jewish Alliance

Murray Friedman

DEAD OPPOSITE: The Lives and Loss of Two American Boys

Geoffrey Douglas

Two Americas revealed in this chronicle of an affluent white youth murdered by a poor black youth.

THE END OF RACISM: Principles for a Multiracial Society

Dinesh D'Souza

A conservative view of the Civil Rights Movement and current race relations.

FIST STICK KNIFE GUN: A Personal History of Violence in America

Geoffrey Canada

Youth violence from fists to drive-bys.

*HOOP DREAMS: A True Story of Hardship and Triumph

Ben Joravsky

THE LAST SHOT: City Streets, Basketball Dreams

Darcy Frey

Is basketball the way out of poverty — or just an illusion?

MASTERS OF THE DREAM: The Strength and Betrayal of Black America

Alan L. Keyes
Republican presidential candidate Keyes gives his conservative views on black identity and empowerment.

THE POWER OF THEIR IDEAS: Lessons for America from a Small School in Harlem

Deborah Meier
A winning blueprint for public school reform.

SAVING OUR SONS: Raising Black Children in a Turbulent World

Marita Golden
One woman's struggle to raise her son in a world of racism and black on black violence.

*WHAT IS COOL? Understanding Black Manhood in America

Marlene Kim Connor
Is it "perhaps the most important force in the life of a Black man"?

Black Is... Expression

BLACKFACE: Reflections on African-Americans and the Movies

Nelson George
A provocative, challenging look at contemporary black film.

BROTHERMAN: The Odyssey of Black Men in America

Ed. by *Herb Boyd* and *Robert L. Allen*
A collection detailing the black male experience.

THE COLLECTED POEMS OF LANGSTON HUGHES

Langston Hughes

A comprehensive collection of the work of the great Harlem Renaissance poet.

THE COMPLETE COLLECTED POEMS OF MAYA ANGELOU

Maya Angelou

Distinguished poet Maya Angelou's latest collection includes "On the Pulse of Morning" delivered at the inauguration of President Clinton.

CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD: Two Centuries of Prayers by African Americans

Ed. by James Melvin Washington

Collection of almost 200 prayers, poems, hymns, and stories by famous and unknown authors.

I KNOW WHAT THE RED CLAY LOOKS LIKE: The Voice and Vision of Black American Women Writers

Rebecca Carroll

Interviews with 15 African-American women writers including Gloria Naylor, Rita Dove, Nikki Giovanni, and J. California Cooper.

MOTHER LOVE

Rita Dove

A collection of poems by the Pulitzer-Prize winning U.S. Poet Laureate.

MY SOUL IS A WITNESS: African-American Women's Spirituality

Ed. by Gloria Wade-Gayles

Traces the lineage of the spirit through poems, essays, and stories.

OUR COMMON GROUND: Portraits of Blacks Changing the Face of America

Bruce Caines

Photographer Caines documents the lives of black community activists, teachers, doctors, and others along with 57 narrative portraits.

THE POWER OF BLACK MUSIC

Samuel A. Floyd

African-American music gets the scholarly attention it deserves but rarely receives.

SWEET SWING BLUES ON THE ROAD

Wynton Marsalis and Frank Stewart

Marsalis combines his controversial views on popular culture with breezy descriptions of life as a touring musician.

SWING LOW: Black Men Writing

Compiled by *Rebecca Carroll*

Interviews with 16 black male authors including Ishmael Reed, August Wilson, and Nathan McCall.

Black Is... Ideas

BLACK JUDGES ON JUSTICE: Perspectives from the Bench

Linn Washington

Seldom-voiced opinions on the inequities and abuses.

CODES OF CONDUCT: Race, Ethics, and the Color of Our Character

Karla F.C. Holloway

An original thinker connects popular culture, history, literature, and current events.

THE BELL CURVE WARS: Race, Intelligence, and the Future of America

Ed. by Steven Fraser

Challenges the theories of intelligence put forth in the controversial bestseller *The Bell Curve*.

ONE BY ONE FROM THE INSIDE OUT: Essays and Reviews on Race and Responsibility in America

Glenn C. Loury

From a Boston University economist.

RACE AND CULTURE: A World View

Thomas Sowell

Are economic and social differences determined by cultural differences?

MAKING MALCOLM: The Myth and Meaning of Malcolm X

Michael Eric Dyson

Malcolm X's legacy as a blueprint for progressive political action.

NOTES OF A WHITE BLACK WOMAN: Race, Color, Community

Judy Scales-Trent

The complexities of racial categories in America.

UNBANK THE FIRE: Visions for the Education of African American Children

Janice E. Hale

By the developer of a school designed to improve academic performance.

This selected list was compiled by: Alan Babner, Fields Corner Branch Library; Elisa Birdseye-Clark, General Library Reader and Information Services; Sara F. Ennis, Brighton/Faneuil Branch Libraries; Jacquelyn Hogan, Egleston Square/Grove Hall Branch Libraries; Marilyn Poindexter, General Library, Young Adult Services; Karen L. Williams, Connolly Branch Library; Sara Markell, Chairperson, Codman Square Branch Library.

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The cover photograph of the sculpture "Father and Son Reading," by noted Boston artist John Wilson, was taken by Nadine Dowling of Roxbury Community College where the sculpture is located.